

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 11, and 12 have been amended. Claims 4, 13, and 15-18 have been canceled.

Claims 4 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim 1 has been amended with the allowable subject matter of claim 4, and claim 4 has been canceled. Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3, 5-10, which depend from claim 1, are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 has been amended with the allowable subject matter of claim 13, and claim 13 has been canceled. Therefore claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Claims 12 and 14, which depend from claim 11, are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 6-9, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirayama (US Patent No. 5,493,604 A) in view of Azartash et al. (WO 9921343 A1) and further view of Takahashi (JP 411027352A). Claim 15 has been canceled. As mentioned previously, claim 1 has been amended with allowable subject matter of claim 4. Therefore, claim 1, and 6-9 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 11 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirayama, in view of Weisshappel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,857,148), and further in view of Tamura (JP 406224816) and Takahashi. Claim 17 has been canceled. As mentioned previously, claim 11 has been amended with the allowable subject matter of claim 13. Therefore, claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

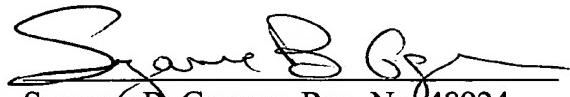
Appl. No. 09/806,103
Amdt. Dated June 16, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 26, 2005

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33388.

Respectfully submitted,

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